

Resolved, That in the event one hundred percent federal cost participation is not authorized, the Congress is hereby urged and requested to take the following actions:

(1) Authorize one-hundred-year flood protection for southeast Louisiana at no greater than historic share percentages.

(2) Authorize local cost-share participation to be paid over a thirty-year period.

(3) Authorize credit for past contributions.

(4) Authorize credit for operations and maintenance expenses paid by local government prior to completion of projects by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

(5) Authorize credit to local levee districts at fair market value for borrow materials provided to the United States Army Corps of Engineers; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-338. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to construct one-hundred-year flood protection for southeast Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, in the aftermath of the flooding and devastation caused by Hurricane Betsy in 1965, the Congress of the United States promised the citizens of southeast Louisiana that they would have Category 3 hurricane protection, for which the local citizenry contributed significant cost-share funding; and

Whereas, the United States Army Corps of Engineers before Hurricane Katrina informed Louisiana that it was protected against a hurricane likely to come no more frequently than once in two hundred years; and

Whereas, levee improvements along the entire Mississippi River system, including its tributaries, and the construction of flood protection reservoirs in states more than one thousand miles from the Gulf Coast deprived the Mississippi River of enormous amounts of sediment needed to sustain coastal lands in Louisiana; and

Whereas, southeast Louisiana has played a major role in the shipping and oil and gas industries which provide benefits to enhance the quality of life and the stability of the economy of the nation as a whole; and

Whereas, the activities of these industries along Louisiana's coast in addition to the construction of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, in conjunction with the engineering of the entire Mississippi River, have led directly to the disappearance of well over two thousand one hundred square miles of Louisiana's coastal lands; and

Whereas, the benefits that have been derived by the rest of the nation from Louisiana's working coast and waterways have, in turn, substantially reduced Louisiana's natural barriers to storm surge and thus enormously increased the state's vulnerability to the impacts from hurricanes far beyond what it would otherwise have been; and

Whereas, on August 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina devastated southeast Louisiana with high winds, torrential rains, and flooding which caused the overtopping of levees and breaching of floodwalls, causing catastrophic damage to public and private properties throughout southeast Louisiana, severely impacting the population, the local economy, and the tax base of these parishes, reducing the level of revenue collected by their respective levee districts; and

Whereas, true one-hundred-year protection for southeast Louisiana must be approached

from a regional perspective with a contiguous system that eliminates all gaps; and

Whereas, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, one-hundred-year flood and hurricane protection for southeast Louisiana was reevaluated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and approved by Congress; however, the current local cost-share requirement for this protection is estimated to be a minimum of one billion six hundred million dollars for just the projects in southeast Louisiana, and without payment of this substantial sum this much-needed protection will not be constructed or will be substantially delayed, jeopardizing the safety and property of the people of southeast Louisiana; and

Whereas, since much of southeast Louisiana is still rebuilding and attempting to bring in new development, intervention is required on the federal level to address local cost-share and other local responsibilities in order to construct this much-needed protection; and

Whereas, the secretary of the Army has the discretion to allow local cost-share to be paid over a thirty-year period, and this discretion has been applied in situations not as exigent as Louisiana's: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States and Louisiana's congressional delegation to ensure the appropriation of a one hundred percent federal share for one-hundred-year flood protection for southeast Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That in the event one hundred percent federal cost participation is not authorized, the Congress of the United States is hereby requested and urged to take the following actions:

(1) Authorize one-hundred-year flood protection for southeast Louisiana at a historic share percentage.

(2) Authorize that local cost-share participation may be paid over a thirty-year period.

(3) Authorize match credit for past expenditures and construction.

(4) Authorize cost-share credit for operations and maintenance expenses paid by local government prior to completion of projects by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

(5) Authorize cost-share credit to local levee districts at fair market value for borrowed materials provided to the Corps; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. KENNEDY, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1760. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the Healthy Start Initiative.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. KERRY, and Mr. MENENDEZ):

S. 2928. A bill to ban bisphenol A in children's products; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 2929. A bill to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965; considered and passed.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 2930. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to extend to members with dependents the second basic allowance for housing for members of the National Guard and Reserve and retired members without dependents who are mobilized in support of a contingency operation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms.

STABENOW, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 2931. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to exempt complex rehabilitation products and assistive technology products from the Medicare competitive acquisition program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr.

BURR):

S. 2932. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the poison center national toll-free number, national media campaign, and grant program to provide assistance for poison prevention, sustain the funding of poison centers, and enhance the public health of people of the United States; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr.

CONRAD, and Mr. KOHL):

S. 2933. A bill to improve the employability of older Americans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

S. 2934. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide a plot allowance for spouses and children of certain veterans who are buried in State cemeteries; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself,

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr.

LEVIN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr.

WHITEHOUSE, Mr. REED, and Mr.

SCHUMER):

S. 2935. A bill to prevent the destruction of terrorist and criminal national instant criminal background check system records; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DOLE:

S. 2936. A bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program, to limit income eligibility expansions under that program until the lowest income eligible individuals are enrolled, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 2937. A bill to provide permanent treatment authority for participants in Department of Defense chemical and biological testing conducted by Deseret Test Center and an expanded study of the health impact of Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr.

BURR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CHAMBLISS,

Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. AL-

EXANDER, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. MAR-

TINEZ, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN,

Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr.

DOMENICI, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. WICKER,

Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. INHOFE):

S. 2938. A bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve educational assistance for members of the Armed Forces and veterans in order to enhance recruitment and retention for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.